

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

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BARCIA INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO HELP FAMILIES OF FALLEN SOLDIERS

LANSING—State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) introduced legislation today to grant up to 10 days paid leave for individuals when a parent, child or spouse is killed during active service in the United States Armed Forces. Barcia's bill comes at a time when 60 Michigan soldiers, including 4 from the 31st Senate District, have already been killed during conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"When a soldier is killed in service to his or her country, the very least we can do is allow family members an appropriate amount of time to attend to the many issues involved with preparing for a funeral and responding to media inquiries without fear of losing their job," said Barcia.

Barcia has spoken with parents who have cited the severe stress in attempting to manage the many issues involved with the death of their child while maintaining full-time employment. These arrangements are complicated by the fact that the deaths occurred overseas and demand time-consuming as well as emotionally draining attention to administrative details.

"This is an extremely emotional time for these individuals," Barcia said. "Allowing them to mourn their loss without suffering a financial hardship is a small price to pay for the ultimate sacrifice their loved ones have made."

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